

What to report and when

Normal conditions

05/14/2007

Following are some of the items that must be included in traffic reports under normal visibility conditions.

- Participating vessels and VMRS Users (positions, intentions, etc.)
- advisories (minimum-wake requests, special operations, etc.)
- marine events
- concentrations of radar targets (fishing or recreational vessels)
- unidentified radar targets deemed to be a potential hazard
- ATON discrepancies (just reported to VTS--not yet released in a BNM)
- uncharted hazards to navigation
- areas of restricted visibility
- regulatory hindrances to the transit (safety zones, etc.).

Note: Exempted vessels (commuter ferries, escort tugs, etc.) and small non-exempted excursion vessels (dinner cruises, etc.) are not included in traffic reports under normal visibility conditions.

Low visibility

In conditions of low visibility (one nautical mile or less) VTS shall also report all radar targets which may affect a vessel's transit.

Ferryboats

See **Traffic Management Procedures for Ferries.**

What to report NOW

Use the following table as a guideline for deciding which items to include in a traffic report.

	Include this item if the mariner...
1	...must begin planning NOW for a possible close-quarters encounter with the vessel even if it is presently at a great distance. (Think of RNAs, known bottleneck areas, etc.)
2	...is expected to meet, cross, or overtake the vessel between now and the next anticipated traffic report.
3	...is expected to see (visually sight) a vessel between now and the next expected traffic report and you suspect that seeing the vessel might confuse the mariner (based on the other vessel's position and/or aspect) into believing that an encounter between the two vessels is possible.
4	...might alter his/her Sailing Plan NOW based on the reported waterway situation (even if the situation is far away).